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Please add new claims 9-15, as follows:

9. A tamping machine for soil compaction, comprising:
 - a rotatable drive shaft connectable to a motor;
 - a working mass linearly reciprocatable in a tamping direction to tamp soil; and
 - a crank mechanism and a spring assembly for translating rotational movement of the drive shaft into the linear movement of the working mass, the crank mechanism including:
 - a crank disc operatively connected to the drive shaft for rotational movement therewith;
 - a connecting rod fabricated from an elastic material having a density lower than the density of steel, the connecting rod having an upper end operatively connected to the crank disc and a lower end;
 - a guide pin having an upper end pivotably connected to the second end of the connecting rod and a lower end; and
 - a piston guide threaded onto the lower end of the guide pin.
10. The tamping machine of claim 9, wherin the converting rod includes an O-shaped leg defining a passageway through the connecting rod.
11. The tamping machine of claim 10, wherein the drive shaft passes through the passageway in the connecting rod.
12. The tamping machine of claim 9, wherein the elastic material is selected from the group consisting of: carbon fiber-reinforced polyamide and carbon glass fiber-reinforced polyamide.